Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B - MR. TOYRYLA:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA/AND - MR. BARNEBEY
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R 131553Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS

1. FATHER WILLIAM BOETLER RECENTLY VISITED THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF AMERICANS INCARCERATED IN BOLIVIAN PRISONS. FOLLOWING A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES WITH THE PRISONERS, BOETLER URGED MORE ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THOSE PRISONERS WHOSE HEALTH IS POOR AND THOSE WHO HAVE SPENT LONG PERIODS UNDER DETENTION WITHOUT FINAL RESOLUTION OF THEIR CASES. SPECIFICALLY, BOETLER SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR BOEKER DELIVER A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO PRESIDENT BANZER ASKING FOR THE RELEASE OF AT LEAST THE CATEGORY OF PRISONERS MENTIONED ABOVE. BOETLER THOUGHT SUCH A RELEASE COULD BE SOMEHOW LINKED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY.

2. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT AT LEAST EIGHT US CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED SINCE 1976 WITHOUT FINAL RESOLUTION OF THEIR CASES AND APPARENTLY TWO ARE HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY
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IN OBTAINING PERMISSION TO ENTER CLINICS, DESPITE THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR TREATMENT.

3. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT BOETLER'S SUGGESTION

DESERVES CONSIDERATION AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE POST'S COMMENTS ON BOETLER'S RECOMMENDATION, OR A VARIATION OF

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IT, AND ON TIMING OF A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO BANZER. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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